

*Good morning Environment Committee members:*

As the Director of Educational Operations for the Colchester Public Schools I am advising the Committee that I am opposed to the proposed ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF PESTICIDES AT PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS, ATHLETIC FIELDS AND MUNICIPAL GREENS***. I opine that the benefits do not outweigh the risks. I base my opposition on the following:

- Utilizing the IPM program regarding field pesticide and herbicide on public fields is reasonable and appropriate approach.
- There is research comparing regional field conditions to injury data that suggests that organic care results in lower-quality grass, looser footing and decreased cushioning for athletes.
- Youth allergies has reached epidemic status and clover and dandelion growth due to limited herbicide applications have resulted in increased bee exposure.
- Organic products are not nearly as effective as traditional applications and are more costly and as such are not conducive to operational town budgets. Six years of economic recession, billions of dollars of State tax increases, and continually unfunded State mandates on BOE's have strapped local taxpayers and funding sources are no longer available.
- Lack of grub control destroys grass root systems and attract skunks, raccoons and birds destroying viable fields and cost thousands of dollars to return the fields to playable and safe conditions.
- Unchecked crabgrass and poison ivy are also problematic for youth safety.
- The perimeters of fields become overgrown without extensive labor increases and increased tick exposure is a concern.

In summary I respectfully request that the Committee not approve the proposed SB 443.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

*Ken Jackson*

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